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THE SITUATION IN BURUNDI

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 19 August 1996 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a declaration which was issued today by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on Burundi.

I would be grateful if you could have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 43 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Conor MURPHY
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

Declaration issued by the Presidency on 19 August 1996 on behalf of the European Union on Burundi

Recalling its declarations of 25 June and 5, 15, 23 and 26 July 1996, the European Union reiterates its deep concern about the situation in Burundi. It urges all sides to refrain from violence and to commit themselves to, and work actively towards, a negotiated and peaceful resolution of the crisis.

The European Union wishes to express its support for the regional leaders, the Organization of African Unity and the former President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Mr. Julius Nyerere, in the efforts that they have been making to assist Burundi to peacefully overcome the grave crisis it is experiencing, and encourages them to continue their efforts to facilitate the search for a political solution.

The European Union considers it essential that a dialogue be organized without delay, bringing together all of Burundi's political forces, without exception, including representatives of civil society, in order to negotiate a democratic, institutional consensus ensuring security for all.

The European Union is convinced that national reconciliation and civil peace in Burundi can be restored on a lasting basis only through the participation of all sections of society in the principal institutions and bodies of the State.

The European Union urges all sides in Burundi to call an immediate halt to the violence and to respect the safety of all Burundians.

It reaffirms its willingness to support Burundi's recovery efforts, once the necessary national reconciliation is embarked upon with all the resolves required.